

TRIVET

This invention relates to a trivet formed of one or more pads of thermal insulating, resilient material which may be used individually or in 5 conjunction with one or more similar pads.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A trivet formed of material relatively impervious to temperature extremes is in common use for supporting a hot or cold serving dish or other 10 container on a table or other support for the purpose of protecting such table or other support from damage due to the temperature of the container. Such trivets commonly are formed of metal or thermal insulating materials which either absorb or dissipate heat, or 15 both. Some trivets simply lie upon the table or other support in face-to-face engagement therewith, whereas others have a container supporting surface elevated from the surface of the support by legs or projections. Known trivets are formed to a selected size and are 20 used individually or in groups as may be necessary to provide a protective layer of material between a container and the surface on which it is supported.

Some trivets are formed of multiple sections, usually of metal, which enable the adjustment of such 25 sections toward and away from one another so as to vary the size of the container which may be supported on such trivets. The use of such telescoping extensions

involves relatively high costs and, usually, an increase in weight of trivets employing them.

Some trivets of conventional construction are susceptible to being scorched or otherwise damaged by 5 use with very hot containers. Others may be rendered unusable by absorbing liquids which may overflow a container supported on such a trivet.

An object of this invention is to provide a trivet construction which overcomes or minimizes 10 greatly the disadvantageous characteristics of conventional trivets.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A trivet constructed in accordance with the invention comprises a body or pad of thermal insulating 15 material having substantial strength and being impervious to spills of the contents of containers normally associated with the use of trivets. The pad has substantially hemispherical projections extending from one or both of the surfaces of the pad so as to 20 space the surface or surfaces of the pad from the container supported thereon or the support on which the trivet is placed. The spacing promotes the dissipation of heat.

The trivet-forming pad also has at least one 25 opening therethrough adjacent an edge of the pad and through which a coupling member may pass for removable retention within the opening. The coupling is joined

to a strap which also is joined to another, corresponding coupling. Each coupling is adapted to be inserted through an opening in the pad and be removably retained therein. Each opening is surmounted by an 5 upstanding flange which forms a rigidifying grommet.

The coupling enables the trivet pads to be used singly or in combination with one or more others. When more than one trivet is used, the coupling prevents inadvertent separation of one from another and 10 maintains them in selected positions of adjustment.

The material from which the trivet and coupling are formed is resiliently pliable, thermally insulating, durable in use, and impervious to the absorption of moisture. The pad is readily cleanable, 15 long lived, and relatively insensitive to temperature extremes.

The trivet has projections extending from at least one and preferably both of the opposite surfaces of the pad to provide air spaces between the main body 20 of the trivet and the surface of the container supported on the trivet or the surface of the support on which the trivet is mounted.

THE DRAWINGS

A trivet constructed in accordance with the 25 preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a plan view of one surface of the trivet, the opposite surface preferably being the same;

Figure 2 is a sectional view on an enlarged scale and taken on the line 2-2 of Figure 1;

5 Figure 3 is a top plan view of a coupling;

Figure 4 is a transverse sectional view taken on the line 4-4 of Figure 3;

Figure 5 is a fragmentary plan view illustrating two trivets coupled to one another; and

10 Figure 6 is a view similar to Figure 1, but illustrating a trivet having more than one coupling opening therein.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A presently preferred form of trivet is
15 designated by the reference character 1 and comprises a rectangular body or pad 2 formed of material such as silicone rubber which has thermal insulating properties, is resiliently pliable, and is relatively impervious to the absorption of moisture. The body has
20 one relatively flat surface 3 from which extend a plurality spaced apart, substantially hemispherical projections 4. All of the projections extend in the same direction from the surface 3 and are of substantially uniform height.

25 The body 2 has an opposite surface 5 from which similar projections 6 extend. The projections 6 correspond in height to that of the projections 4, so

it does not matter which surface is face up or face down. Whenever the body 2 is supported on a base 7 having a flat surface 8, the projections 6 provide an air space between the surfaces 5 and 8 through which 5 air may circulate to dissipate heat. Similarly, the projections 4 provide support for the bottom of a container (not shown) for hot or cold materials and a similar air space is provided between the bottom of the container and the surface 3.

10 Adjacent one corner of the body 1 is a cylindrical opening 9 having a smooth wall 10. Encircling the opening 9 and on each side of the body 2 is an upstanding reinforcing flange or grommet 11 having a bore 12 the surface of which is smooth and 15 extends in prolongation of the wall 10. The cross sectional area of the opening 9 is coextensive with that of the bore 12.

A coupling for connecting two or more similar trivet body pads 2 to one another is indicated 20 generally by the reference character 13 and comprises a strap 14 formed of resiliently pliable material like that from which the body 2 is formed. However, the thickness of the strap 14 is considerably less than that of the body 2. One end of the strap 14 is joined 25 to a retainer 15 comprising an upstanding, hollow stem 16 terminating at one end in an enlargement 17 having a beveled external surface 18. The enlargement forms a

shoulder 19. The diameter of the stem 16 corresponds substantially to that of the opening 9.

At the opposite end of the strap 14 is a second retainer 15 corresponding in all respects to 5 that described above.

The strap 14 is formed integrally with the retainers 15 and extends beyond and encircles the periphery of the associated stem 16. There thus is formed at opposite ends of each stem an enlargement 10 which extends beyond the confines of the opening 9 and inhibits removal of the stem from the opening 9 once the stem has been inserted into such opening. However, because of the resiliently pliable nature of the material from which the coupling 13 is formed, the 15 enlargement 17 may be deformed to permit insertion of the retainer into the opening 9.

The height of the stem 16 is such that the adjacent portion of the strap 14 and the shoulder 19 will engage opposite sides of a pad, but because of the 20 smooth surfaces of the confronting parts of the stem, the opening, and the flanges 11 the stem is freely rotatable within the opening.

The length of the strap 14 is such as to enable it to span the distance from one edge of one 25 body 2 to an adjacent edge of a second body, thereby coupling two bodies to one another.

Figure 5 illustrates two identical bodies 2 arranged side by side and coupled to one another by the coupling means 13. In this arrangement two of the longer sides of the bodies 2 are adjacent one another.

5 This arrangement may be used in those instances in which the area of a single body is inadequate to support an article.

The arrangement shown in Figure 5 can be varied so that two of the shorter edges of the body are 10 adjacent one another, thereby providing an elongate trivet of different configuration from that shown in Figure 5.

The embodiment shown in Figure 6 is the same as has been described except that the body 2 is 15 provided with a plurality of openings 9 corresponding in all respects to that described earlier. By placing two openings 9 adjacent opposite ends of the body more than two such bodies may be coupled in prolongation of one another. By providing another opening 9 adjacent 20 one of the longer edges of the body two bodies may be arranged in such manner that the shorter edge of one body may be placed adjacent a longer edge of another body or in some other arrangement to enable the coupled pads to accommodate irregularly shaped containers.

25 The disclosed embodiments are representative of presently preferred forms of the invention, but are

intended to be illustrative rather than definitive thereof. The invention is defined in the claims.